

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 221651Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1862
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4820

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP AL PO
SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS: OPENING WITH ALBANIA

REF: (A) PARIS 17791 (B) VALLETTA 0697 (C) LISBON 3055
DTG R161656Z JUN77 DTG R211423Z JUN77 DTG R181715Z APR77

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT PORTUGAL
AND ALBANIA HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPECTS EMBASSIES TO OPEN VERY
SHORTLY. END SUMMARY.

1. OPENING WITH ALBANIA: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED
JUNE 21 THAT PORTUGAL AND ALBANIA HAD AGREED TO
ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL
LEVEL (REF A). FONMIN SOURCES TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER

THAT THE EMBASSIES WOULD BE OPENING VERY SHORTLY AND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES INTENDED TO NAME RESIDENT AMBASSADORS.

2. LIBYA THREATENS BREAK: LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER

ABDEL SALAM JALLUD, SPEAKING AT THE VALLETTA MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALISTS JUNE 21 REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT LIBYA WAS CONSIDERING BREAKING RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL DUE TO THE PORTUGUESE DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (REF B). JALLUD SAID THAT: "THE TRUE REVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL WAS PARALYZED BY SO CALLED SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY; .. THERE WAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR LARGE SCALE ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUT NOW IT IS IMPOSSIBLE."

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JUNE 21 DECLARED A SECOND

SECRETARY OF THE EAST GERMAN EMBASSY PERSONA NON GRATA. FONMIN SOURCES CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF REPORTS THAT THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE GDR DIPLOMAT IN A MAY 6-7 COMMUNIST ASSAULT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN REFORM CENTER IN BEJA, THE CAPITAL OF THE PCP-ALENTEJO STRONGHOLD. OUR SOURCES SAID DECISION WAS BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY PRESS. MAY 7 LISBON PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO PHOTO OF DIPLOMATIC AUTO PARKED OUTSIDE PCP HEADQUARTERS IN BEJA. HEAVY SUITCASES WERE SEEN BEING DELIVERED TO PARTY HEADQUARTERS FROM DIPLOMATIC CAR DURING ATTACK ON AGRARIAN REFORM CENTER.
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4. COMMENT: THE MOVE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH

ALBANIA FOLLOWS BY TWO MONTHS THE VISIT OF THE ALBANIAN WORKER PARTY DELEGATION TO PORTUGAL (REF C). AFTER THE VISIT, THE FAR LEFT UDP, THE PRIVATE INTERLOCUTOR OF ALBANIA IN PORTUGAL, WAGED A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FOR RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE ALBANIAN DECISION FORESHADOWS A SIMILAR OPENING BY PEKING, BUT THIS IS NOT CERTAIN.
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